

III. Remarks

Responsive to the outstanding Examiner's Action, applicants have carefully studied the Examiner's comments. Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following detailed discussion.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 6-12 and 19 are allowed. Claims 3-5, 13-18 and 20 are objected to. Claims 3, 5, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 have been amended. No new matter has been added with these amendments.

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that in the last line of claim 19, a period should be inserted after "component". Applicants thank the Examiner for noticing this typographical error and his suggestion. Claim 19 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner also indicated that each of the boxes in Figures 1a and 2 should be labeled. In an August 19, 2004 phone conference with the Examiner, it was discussed that words should be included in Figs. 1a and 2 to facilitate understanding of the figures. Applicants noted that Fig. 1 also contains boxes, so words have been added to Fig. 1 also to facilitate understanding of the figure. Figs. 1, 1a and 2 have been amended to include words for each box on Figs. 1, 1a and 2 and replacement sheets containing the figures are included herewith. No new matter has been added with these amendments.

Claims 3-5, 13-18 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 3, 5, 13, 16, 17, 18 and 20 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejection listed for each claim in the Office Action. The amendments address each of the listed reasons for the Examiner's rejection for each of the claims. Regarding claim 14, it is believed the Examiner rejected this claim since claim 13 lacked antecedent basis for a term recited in claim 14. Counsel for Applicants believes that the amendment to claim 13 overcomes the

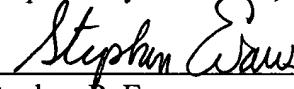
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Examiner's rejection and, therefore, since claim 14 depends on claim 13, claim 14 now appears to be in condition for allowance.

In light of the amendments made to claims 3, 5, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20, and the remarks above, it is believed the claims are now in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner wish to modify any of the language of the claims, applicant's attorney suggests a telephone interview in order to expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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